

#4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard J. Collins *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/611,320

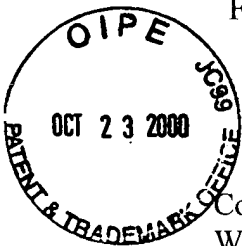
Filed: July 6, 2000

For: Card with Increased Gripability

Art Unit: 3722

Examiner: Unassigned

Atty. Docket: 16762.085.US01



Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
No statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

- ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i).
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☒ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/095,752, filed December 30, 1997, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of

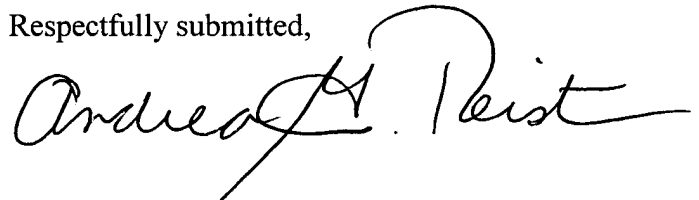
the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0740 referencing docket number 16762.085.US01.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea G. Reister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A" and "R".

Andrea G. Reister (Reg. No. 36,253)

Date: October 23, 2000

COVINGTON & BURLING
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2401
(202) 662-6000

FORM PTO-1449
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO. 16762.085.US01

APPLICATION NO. 09/611,320

APPLICANT Richard J. Collins *et al.*

FILING DATE July 6, 2000

GROUP 3722

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF. NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	GRANT DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	3,230,650	01/1966	H. E. Orkin			
	AB1	4,079,883	03/1978	Calder			
	AC1	4,338,805	07/1982	Nygren			
	AD1	4,628,195	12/1986	Baus			
	AE1	4,856,310	08/1989	Parienti			
	AF1	4,914,281	04/1990	Benton <i>et al.</i>			
	AG1	5,061,845	10/1991	Pinnavaia			
	AH1	5,096,228	03/1992	Rinderknecht			
	AI1	5,250,341	10/1993	Kobayashi <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ1	5,700,037	12/1997	Keller			
	AK1						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF. NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	WO 93/11510	06/1993	WIPO			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AM1						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AN1						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AO1						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AP1						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

EXAMINER INITIALS	REF. NO.	OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)
	AS 1	
	AT 1	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.